

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1890

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP PINS GR US

SUBJECT: DEATH OF RICHARD S WELCH - STATEMENTS BY OPPOSITION LEADERS

1. THREE OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO COMMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF THEIR STATEMENTS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE DEC 24 AFTERNOON PRESS.

2. GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES:
"WE CONDEMN THE ABOMINABLE CRIME. THE GOVERNMENT, WE ARE SURE, WILL UNDERTAKE ALL MEASURES TO DISCOVER AND TO PUNISH THE CRIMINALS. THE GREEK PEOPLE UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMN SUCH ACTIONS AND WILL NOT ALLOW THE COUNTRY TO TURN INTO A CENTER OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES."

3. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, LEADER OF PASOK: "THE PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF THE COUNTRY DO NOT STRUGGLE AGAINST PERSONALITIES BUT AGAINST INSTITUTIONS. AND NOT ONLY THAT. THEY PURSUE THEIR GOALS AND ESPECIALLY OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE THROUGH POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY. THE ASSASSINATION OF WELCH EITHER HAS TO DO WITH (THE PAYMENT OF) OLD ACCOUNTS, UNRELATED TO HIS PRESENCE IN GREECE, OR IT AMOUNTS TO AN ACT OF PROVOCATION OF THE FIRST ORDER,
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WHOSE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES ARE NOT EASY TO CALCULATE

TODAY. IN THE SECOND CASE, THE ACT MUST BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SAME FORCES WHICH IMPOSED THE APRIL 1967 DICTATORSHIP ON GREECE."

4. LEONIDAS KIRKOS, LEADER OF THE DISSIDENT COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS WAS A PURE PROVOCATION AGAINST THE ANTI IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT AND NORMAL DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT. NOR IS THERE ANY DOUBT THAT ITS ROOTS ARE IN THE SECRET SERVICES OF THE IMPERIALISTS. WE BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF GREECE, WHO DID NOT SEEK VIGILANTE ACTION EVEN UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE TYRANTS OF THE JUNTA, WILL CONDEMN MERCILESSLY THE ACTION OF THE MASKED ASSASSINS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE DUTY TO TAKE SEVERE MEASURES AGAINST THE AGENTS OF FOREIGN SERVICES, AGAINST JUNTA-MONARCHISTS AND NEO-FASCISTS WHO ATTEMPT TO PUSH THE COUNTRY TOWARDS THE PATH OF ARMED VIOLENCE."

5. THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO PUBLISHED OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR, BUT INITIAL COMMENTS BY UNNAMED PARTY LEADERS, APPEARING IN THE PARTY'S MORNING PAPER, SUGGEST THAT THE KKE (EXTERIOR) WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW THE LINE TAKEN BY THE INTERIOR PAROY.
KUBISCH

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